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Secret, H-27—100,000—23-5-48.

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Home (1948) Department.

G.O SERIES. public

G.O. No. 46 2485

Dated 30.6.48

[Despatch Abstract]

Passport - Foreigners residing in Pondicherry proceeding abroad for British Territories Other than French - Indian consular officers not authorised to issue - Instructions from the Govt of India - Recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Abstract.

PASSPORT - Foreigners residing in Pondicerry - Visas for British territories other than India - Indian Consular Officers not authorised to issue - Instructions from the Government of India - Recorded.

Home Department.

G.O. Ms. No. 2485. Dated 30th June 1948.

Read the following:-

I.

G.O. Ms. No. 4718, Home, dated 22nd December 1947.

II.

From the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, No.F.60(19)-PVI/47, dated 19th June 1948.

Sub: Grant of visas by the Consulate General for India, Pondicherry.

** **

Reference your Express Letter No.2227-P/1/R. dated the 29th May 1948.

2. The functions of Indian diplomatic and consular officers abroad are confined to issue of passports to Indians and visas to foreigners for India only. You are, therefore, not empowered to issue visas for any other British territories. In the absence of a British consular officer at Pondicherry empowered to grant visas will have to be addressed to the nearest competent authorities, which is the Government of Madras. Similar arrangements already exist in regard to the grant of passports to non-Indian British subjects in Pondicherry, vide Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations letter No.D. 9270-PVI/47 dated the 10th December 1947, addressed to the Government of Madras.

3. The Government of India will be glad to be informed whether requests for visas for British territories have actually been received by you in any appreciable volume.

** ** **

Copy of Express Letter No.2527-P/1/R dated 22nd June 1948 from India - Pondicherry to Foreign - New Delhi.

* * *

Sub: Grant ~~vi~~ of visas by the Consulate General for India - Pondicherry.

Reference your Express Letter No.F.60(19)-PVI/47, dated

p.t.o..

19th June 1948.

2. The instructions contained in paragraph 1 thereof have been noted and the French India Government have been informed accordingly.

3. Applications for visas for Malaya, ordinary or transit, were being referred to the Colonial Secretary, Singapore, who issued authorization to issue the visas. Similarly ordinary visas were being issued to persons for Ceylon on intimation from the Chief Secretary, Colombo, that there was no objection to the issue. Thus 52 visas were granted for Ceylon and 14 visas for Malaya upto 21st June 1948, the date of receipt of your Express Letter. Indian applicants to these British territories are being directed to submit their applications to the Government of Madras.

** ** **

Copy of express letter No. 2227-P/1/R dated 29th May 1948 from India, Pondicherry to Foreign, New Delhi.

** **

Sub: Grant of visas by the Consulate General for India Pondicherry.

** **

Reference concluding part of your Express Letter No.D. 1854-PV(I)/48 dated 29th April 1948 which reads as follows:-

"As regards other Visas mentioned in your telegram No.33 dated the 20th February 1948 you are, of course, not concerned since you are not authorised to grant them".

2. The powers of this Consulate General do not appear to be defined clearly regarding the countries for which visas can be granted. Grateful to be informed whether this Consulate General can continue to grant visas for (1) Ceylon (2) Malaya (3) Seyechelles (4) Mauritius and other territories of British Commonwealth except Pakistan, as it was done before the change of designation of this Consulate from British to Indian.

** ** **

O R D E R:

R E C O R D E D.

/By order of His Excellency the Governor/

To the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
The Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, C.I.D. Madras.
Copy to all District Magistrates.

/True Copy/

SUPERINTENDENT,
dras Record Office,
6-1953.

ss/30.5.

Copy of letter No.D.3139-PV(I)/48, dated the 9th July 1948, from Foreign, New Delhi to the India, Pondicherry.

** ** **

Sub: Grant of visas by the Consulate General for India Pondicherry.

** **

Reference your Express Letter No.2527-P/1/R dated the 22nd June 1948.

2. It is stated in your letter under reference that Indian applicants intending to travel to Malaya, Singapore and Ceylon are also being directed by you to submit their applications to the Government of Madras. This procedure is unnecessary. You are empowered to validate the passports for travel to any Empire or foreign country. In regard to Empire countries, however, you have to make sure that the applicant is eligible for entry into the Empire country concerned under its own Immigration Regulations. A British Indian subject (in fact any other British subject) does not require a visa for travel to any British territory. He has, however, to satisfy the requirements of Immigration Regulations as state above. It is only foreigners who require visas for travel to British territories.

* of Indian applicants holding British Indian Passports

3. A copy of circular from the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations to all Passports Issuing Authorities in India, No.F.26-P/47, dated the 12th May 1948, regarding grant of passport facilities for the Colony of Singapore and Malayan Union, is enclosed herewith. You are competent to grant endorsements for the Colony of Singapore and the Malayan Union on British Indian passports in accordance with the instructions enclosed. You can similarly grant endorsements for Ceylon on British India passports. A British subject of a British protected person, domiciled in India, does not require a passport for travel to Ceylon from India. However, if he is already in possession of a passport he can be granted a further endorsement for Ceylon by you.

4. Any foreigner who intends to travel to Malaya, Singapore, Ceylon or any other British territory, will require visas, for which he has to apply to the Government of Madras, you being competent to grant visas to foreigners for India only.

5. If you have any other doubts on this subject, the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations will be glad to offer elucidation.

** ** **

The issue of the above has been authorised.

Sd. A.K. SEN,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy forwarded to the Home Secretary to the Government of Madras, for information.

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Under Secretary to the Government of India.

p.t.o.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

The current contains instructions for the guidance of the Counsul General for India in Pondicherry. No action may be lodged and added to G.O. Ms. No. 2485, dated 30-6-48.

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/True Copy/

Superintendent,
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE,
-6-1953.

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